

REMARKS

Claims 70-137 are pending in the captioned Application in which claims 70-137 are finally rejected. Claims 1-69 were previously cancelled without prejudice.

Applicant has amended claim 122 to recite “a property management system” thereby to correct an informality regarding an antecedent.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claims 112 and 115 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as lacking sufficient antecedent basis. The rejection is respectfully traversed regarding both of claims 112 and 115.

The rejection is traversed regarding claim 112 because claim 112 does not recite “said property management system” as stated by the rejection. It is submitted that antecedent for each recitation of claim 112 is found in independent claim 103 from which it depends.

The rejection is traversed regarding claim 115. Antecedent for the recitation of “the computer” is found in independent claim 114 from which claim 115 depends. Specifically, the tenth paragraph after the preamble of claim 114 recites “storing information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities into a computer” (emphasis added) which provides the antecedent for the recitation of “the computer” in claim 115.

Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b):

Claims 70-137 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,726,885 to Klein et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Klein relates to a hire vehicle transportation system in which a plurality of usable vehicles are available for hire at various collection and return points that have machines for issuing chip cards that have been coded in advance for a specific vehicle and are associated with that specific vehicle to a user hiring the vehicle and for collecting the chip card which is

coded for and associated with the specific vehicle upon return of the vehicle from hire. (Abstract; column 3, lines 21-29 & 30-34, column 4, lines 37-41 & 46-52, column 5, lines 8-10, column 6, lines 24-30, column 7, lines 36-42, and column 8, lines 4-11).

Thus, for Klein's system to operate as described it is necessary that each vehicle specific chip card be returned at the end of each vehicle hire or there is no record that the vehicle has been returned. The importance and necessity of this prearranged continuing one-to-one correspondence of chip cards and vehicles is confirmed and emphasized by Klein at column 8, lines 9-11, which states:

"It is thus ensured that each automatic collection and return machine contains, at any one time, precisely the chip cards of the vehicles located in the associated collection and return area" (emphasis added).

Applicant's claims, on the other hand, specifically recite that the access card does not have access information pre-stored therein, which is the opposite of the chip card coded for and associated with a specific vehicle as described by Klein.

Applicant's claims further recite that the card writer stores access information related to the completed self registration in the card memory of the access card, rather than having a chip card coded for and associated with the specific vehicle as described by Klein.

In Applicant's novel system, the access cards are fungible, i.e. they are not coded before the self registration is made, and then they are coded and issued for that self registration. It is submitted that if an access card is not returned, subsequent self registrations for all areas of the premises of Applicant's system is not upset, as is Klein's system which depends upon one-to-one correspondence of chip cards and specific vehicles.

Also in Applicant's novel system, the self-registration information stored in the access card may allow access into more than one area or location of the premises. Klein's system is limited by the need for one-to-one correspondence of each chip card and a specific vehicle, and does not suggest Applicant's novel feature.

Moreover, Klein describes only the hire of a specific vehicle, and does not describe granting access regarding a premises, or that access may be provided to more than one location of the premises, or that a personnel management system or a time clock station also

be included, as recited in respective ones of Applicant's claims.

The three cases cited by the Examiner at page 4 relate to rejections of printed matter on a substrate, of a sound recording and of information stored in a memory, each of which rejections was reversed. The recitations of the premises and locations of the premises, such as rooms, areas, and facilities, are structural features that relate functions claimed, e.g., enabling access functions, personnel management functions, and time recording functions, and are not "non-functional descriptive data not functionally interrelated with the structure" as alleged. Likewise, it is submitted that user information, such as personal information, credit information, identifying information, loyalty program information, or a combination thereof, are not non-functional descriptive data, but may be employed for performing recited functions, e.g., processing registration functions, payment and billing functions, crediting or otherwise servicing loyalty accounts, access controlling functions, and the like.

Therefore, Klein lacks one or more of the elements or limitations recited by Applicant's claims and so does not anticipate Applicant's claims.

In particular, the apparatus of Applicants' claim 70 is patentable for the foregoing reasons and at least because it recites:

"wherein a completed self registration defines one or more locations of the premises and defines dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations, and

"wherein said processor provides access information representative of the one or more locations and of the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations defined by the completed self registration;

"a supply of access cards, each access card including a card memory for storing access information therein, but not having access information pre-stored therein, wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction; and

"a card issuing device for providing at least one of the access cards for each self registration, said card issuing device comprising:

"a card writer being operably coupled to said processor for storing the access information related to the completed self registration in the card memory of the access card for enabling access related to the defined locations of the premises;

"wherein the access information stored in the card memory of the access card defines the one or more locations of the premises and defines the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations in accordance with the completed self registration,"

which is not described or suggested by Klein.

Further, the system of Applicants' claim 83 further recites plural access devices each enabling access to respective location of the premises responsive to the access information stored in the access card, which is not described by Klein's one pre-coded chip card for each specific vehicle in a vehicle for hire system. The system of Applicants' claim 83 is patentable for the foregoing reasons and at least because it recites:

“wherein a completed self registration defines one or more locations of the premises and defines dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations, and

“wherein said processor provides access information representative of the one or more locations and of the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations defined by the completed self registration;

“means coupled to said processor and responsive to a credit card for effecting credit verification, credit authorization, billing, payment, or a combination thereof, for the self registration;

“a supply of access cards, each access card including a card memory for storing access information therein, but not having access information pre-stored therein, wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction; and

“a card issuing device for providing at least one of the access cards for each self registration, said card issuing device comprising:

“a card writer being operably coupled to said processor for storing the access information related to the completed self registration in the card memory of the access card for enabling access related to the defined locations of the premises;

“wherein the access information stored in the card memory of the access card defines the one or more locations of the premises and defines the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations in accordance with the completed self registration; and

“a card dispenser for dispensing the at least one access card having stored in the card memory thereof the access information defining the one or more locations of the premises and defining the dates and/or times for permitted access to the one or more locations in accordance with the completed self registration; and

“a plurality of access devices each including a reader for reading access information stored in the access card for enabling access to a respective location of the premises responsive to the access information stored in the card memory of the access card,”

which is not described or suggested by Klein.

In addition, the system of Applicants' claim 103 includes a property management system for processing premises registrations and further includes a personnel management system defining worker information and issues worker access cards for workers of the premises, neither of which is described by Klein's one pre-coded chip card for each specific vehicle in a vehicle for hire system. Thus, the system of Applicants' claim 103 is patentable for the foregoing reasons and at least because it recites:

“a supply of access cards, each access card including a card memory for storing access parameters therein, but not having access parameters pre-stored therein, wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction;

“a plurality of electronic access devices, wherein each access device is associated with one of the spaces of the premises for enabling access to that one of the spaces of the premises responsive to access parameters stored in the card memory of an access card;

“an access control system including a computer program stored in said at least one memory and operating in conjunction with said at least one processor for defining access parameters for said plurality of electronic access devices, wherein the access parameters define a given one or more of the spaces;

“a card issuing device operably coupled to said at least one processor for storing registration information from said property management system and access parameters from said access control system in the card memory of a given access card of the supply of access cards,

“said card issuing device including a dispenser for providing the given access card in response to registering a user for the given space, the given access card having the registration information and the access parameters for a given self registration stored in the card memory thereof for enabling one or more of said plurality of electronic access devices for access to the given space, to one or more others of the spaces, or both; and

“a personnel management system including a computer program stored in said at least one memory and operating in conjunction with said at least one processor for defining worker information relating to at least one worker associated with the premises, wherein said card issuing device issues an access card from said supply of access cards, the access card comprising a worker access card having worker information relating to a given worker of the at least one worker and access parameters for spaces of the premises stored in the card memory thereof,”

which is not described or suggested by Klein.

In addition, the method of Applicants' claim 114 also receives credit card information for effecting billing, payment or credit transaction, and the access information processed therefrom is stored in the previously un-coded access card, which is not described by Klein's

one pre-coded chip card for each specific vehicle in a vehicle for hire system. Moreover, Klein requires each authorized user to have a system specific user identification card (e.g., column 3, lines 23-28) which necessarily requires the user to have satisfactorily completed an authorization process (not described) for the system so as to be issued the user identification card, and not to simply use a credit card without requiring pre-authorization.

The method of Applicants' claim 114 is patentable for the foregoing reasons and at least because it recites:

“providing a supply of access cards, each access card including a card memory for storing access information therein, but not having access information pre-stored therein, wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction;...

“processing the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities by the computer for providing certain access information representative thereof;

“storing the certain access information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities into the card memory of the access card; and

“providing the access card having the certain access information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities stored in the card memory thereof,”

and because it further recites:

“providing a plurality of electronic access devices each operable responsive to an access card having certain access information stored in a card memory thereof to provide access to a facility or facilities;

“receiving and displaying registration information using the user terminal;

“allowing the user to use the user terminal to enter and optionally to change registration information;

“allowing the user to use the user terminal to select the facility or facilities to which the user is to have access;

“wherein the received registration information, the changed registration information, or both, and the selected facility or facilities comprise a self registration,”

and because it further recites:

“receiving credit card information for effecting billing, payment, or other credit transaction relating to the self registration,”

which is not described or suggested by Klein.

The time recording system of Applicants' claim 122 includes plural electronic access devices responsive to the access cards for enabling access to plural premises, and also

includes a time clock station responsive to the access card for recording registration and time information, and further includes a user interface operably coupled to the processor and to a property management system, neither of which is described by Klein's one pre-coded chip card for each specific vehicle in a vehicle for hire system. The system of Applicants' claim 122 is patentable for the foregoing reasons and at least because it recites:

“a supply of access cards, each access card including a card memory for storing access information therein, but not having access information pre-stored therein, wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction;

“a plurality of electronic access devices each adapted for enabling access to one of the spaces of the premises responsive to access information stored in the card memory of an access card;

“an access control system including a computer program stored in said at least one memory and operating in conjunction with said at least one processor for defining access information for each of said plurality of electronic access devices;

“a user interface for self registering a user without intervention from personnel of the premises, said user interface being operably coupled to said at least one processor and to a property management system for receiving registration information relating to a given one or ones of the spaces of the premises for the self registering a user in relation to the given one or ones of the spaces of the premises;

“a card issuing device operably coupled to said at least one processor comprising:

“means for storing registration information from said user interface and access information from said access control system in the card memory of a given access card, and

“means for issuing the given access card in response to self registering a user, the given access card enabling at least one of said plurality of electronic access devices for access to the given one or ones of the spaces of the premises,”

and because it further recites:

“at least one time clock station including a clock for providing time information, wherein said time clock station is responsive to the given access card for recording registration information read from the given access card and time information relating thereto,”

which is not described or suggested by Klein.

Finally, the storage medium of Applicants' claim 132 is patentable for the foregoing reasons and at least because it recites:

“means for causing the computer to store certain access information

representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities into the card memory of an access card in a format for operating one or more electronic access devices associated with the selected facility or facilities,

“wherein the access card does not have access information pre-stored therein, and wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction; and

“means for causing the computer to provide the access card with the certain access information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities stored in the card memory thereof,”

and because it further recites:

“means for causing the computer to receive credit card information for effecting billing, payment, or other credit transaction relating to the self registration,”

which is not described or suggested by Klein.

Applicant's claims 71-82, 84-102, 104-113, 115-121, 123-131 and 133-137 are patentable at least because they depend from one of patentable claims 70, 83, 103, 114, 122 and 132. In addition, claims 71 and 72 further recite a personnel management system linked to a time recording system including time clock stations, claims 79, 88-90, 100, 120 and 133 recite a property management system providing registration information or charge information, claims 96, 104, 105 and 126 further recite worker access cards and a time clock station, claim 102 recites a property management system providing charge information, claims 120 and 133 recite communicating information with a personnel management system, and claim 125 recites a personnel management system defining worker related parameters wherein ones of the access cards are issued s worker access cards, none of which is described by Klein.

Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion:


Applicant respectfully requests that this amendment which is believed to place the captioned Application in condition for allowance be entered, that the rejections be withdrawn,

and that the Application including claims 70-137 be allowed and passed to issuance.

The number of claims remaining being the same as or less than the number previously paid for, no fee is due therefor in consequence of this timely filed response. Should any other or additional fee be due in consequence of this Response, please charge such fee and deposit any refund to Deposit Account 04-1406 of Dann, Dorfman, Herrell & Skillman.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney if there is any question or if prosecution of this Application could be furthered by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,
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